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The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Letter dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

Upon the instructions of our respective Governments, we have the honour to forward herewith a joint statement by the Heads of our respective States, issued following their meeting held in New York on 8 September 2000 (see annex).

Our Heads of State reiterated their firm commitment towards lasting peace and stability in the region, an integral part of which represents the resolution of all aspects of the issue of succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including the status of that State and all its successors in the United Nations, on the basis of the principle of equality of all successor States.

We should like to request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45, 57 and 78.

(*Signed*) Muhamed **Sacirbey**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina

(*Signed*) Ivan **Šimonović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia

* Also issued as document S/2000/897.

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(*Signed*) Naste **Čalovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia

(*Signed*) Ernest **Petrič**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia

Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Secretary-General

Joint statement by the President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegović, the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Stjepan Mesić, the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Boris Trajkovski, and the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Milan Kučan

On the margins of the Millennium Summit a meeting was held between the President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegović, the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Stjepan Mesić, the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Boris Trajkovski, and the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Milan Kučan. The Presidents discussed the efforts of their respective States to achieve the speediest possible accession into the Euro-Atlantic integrations, mutual cooperation and succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as the political situation in South-East Europe.

At the meeting, the common position of four of the successor States with regard to succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was confirmed. The resolution of the question of succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on the basis of the principle of equality of all successors, is a prerequisite to lasting peace and security in the region. The Presidents also underlined the importance of the consistent implementation of all existing decisions of the international community related to succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular, the decisions of the Arbitration Commission of the European Union/United Nations International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, as well as the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, which confirm the legal equality of all the successors, and agreed, that pursuant to these decisions, the existing illegal practice in the United Nations be discontinued.

The four States shall continue to coordinate their activities aimed at ensuring the equal treatment of all of the successor States to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations. Additionally, it was emphasized that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has to complete the usual procedure for admission to international organizations, as the rest of the successor States have done. It was agreed to seek the support of the European Union, the United States of America and the rest of the Member States of the United Nations for the achievement of their aims in relation to succession. The Presidents agreed that they would, following democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), advocate the lifting of sanctions and the swift admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the United Nations and other international organizations, when and if that State so requests.

Following the meeting of the Presidents of the four successor States, the President of Montenegro, Milo Đukanović, was invited to join the discussion, at which time he gave an account of developments in Montenegro.

Milan Panić, the former Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), who also subsequently joined the discussions, informed the meeting of his views on the situation in Serbia.